

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

A listing of the currently pending claims is below:

1-96. (Cancelled).

97. (Previously Presented) A rail assembly, comprising:

a rail;

a post; and

a bracket for mounting the rail to the post, the bracket comprising:

a post surface at least a portion of which is configured to abut a mounting

surface of the post; and

at least two surfaces configured to be associated with and not parallel to

the post surface of the bracket,

wherein a first surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to

accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a first configuration,

wherein a second surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to

accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a second

configuration different from the first configuration,

wherein the first surface is configured to receive and retain a first surface

of another bracket,

wherein the first surface includes at least one protrusion configured to

assist the first surface in receiving and retaining the first surface of

another bracket.

98. (Currently Amended) The rail assembly of claim ~~80~~ 97, wherein the first surface forms about a 45 degree angle with the post surface.

99. (Currently Amended) The rail assembly of claim ~~80~~ 97, wherein the first surface forms about a 90 degree angle with the post surface.

100. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 98, wherein the second surface forms about a 45 degree angle with the post surface and about a 90 degree angle with the first surface.

101. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 99, wherein the second surface forms about a 45 degree angle with the post surface and about a 45 degree angle with the first surface.

102. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 98, wherein the second surface forms about a 45 degree angle with the post surface and about a 45 degree angle with the first surface.

103-104. (Cancelled)

105. (Previously Presented) A rail assembly, comprising:

a rail;

a post; and

a bracket for mounting the rail to the post, the bracket comprising:

a post surface at least a portion of which is configured to abut a mounting surface of the post; and

at least two surfaces configured to be associated with and not parallel to the post surface of the bracket,

wherein a first surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to
accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a first configuration,
wherein a second surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to
accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a second
configuration different from the first configuration,
wherein in the first configuration of the rail relative to the post, a
longitudinal axis of the rail is at a first angle relative to the mounting
surface of the post, and in the second configuration of the rail
relative to the post, the longitudinal axis of the rail is at a second
angle relative to the mounting surface of the post different from the
first angle,
wherein the at least two surfaces are disposed between interior surfaces
of the rail.

106. (Previously Presented) A rail assembly, comprising:

a rail;

a post; and

a bracket for mounting the rail to the post, the bracket comprising:

a post surface at least a portion of which is configured to abut a mounting
surface of the post; and

at least two surfaces configured to be associated with and not parallel to
the post surface of the bracket,

wherein a first surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to
accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a first configuration,

wherein a second surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to
accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a second
configuration different from the first configuration,
wherein in the first configuration of the rail relative to the post, a
longitudinal axis of the rail is at a first angle relative to the mounting
surface of the post, and in the second configuration of the rail
relative to the post, the longitudinal axis of the rail is at a second
angle relative to the mounting surface of the post different from the
first angle,
wherein the rail surrounds the at least two surfaces.

107. (Currently Amended) The rail assembly of claim ~~80~~ 105, wherein the rail
has a substantially U-shaped cross-sectional configuration.

108. (Currently Amended) The rail assembly of claim ~~80~~ 105, wherein the rail
is in physical contact with at least one of the at least two surfaces.

109. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 108, wherein the rail is
in physical contact with both of the at least two surfaces.

110. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 108, wherein the rail is
not in physical contact with one of the at least two surfaces.

111. (Currently Amended) The rail assembly of claim ~~80~~ 105, wherein the first
angle is about 90 degrees and the second angle is about 45 degrees.

112. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 97, wherein in the first
configuration the longitudinal axis of the rail is at the first angle relative to a longitudinal

axis of the post, and in the second configuration the longitudinal axis of the rail is at the second angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the post different from the first angle.

113. (Currently Amended) The rail assembly of claim ~~80~~ 97, wherein in the first configuration the longitudinal axis of the rail is at the first angle relative to a plane substantially perpendicular to the mounting surface, and in the second configuration the longitudinal axis of the rail is at the second angle relative to the plane substantially perpendicular to the mounting surface,

wherein the plane includes the longitudinal axis of the post.

114. (Currently Amended) The rail assembly of claim ~~80~~ 97, wherein in both the first configuration and the second configuration, an endmost surface of the rail is substantially parallel to the mounting surface.

115. (Previously Presented) A rail assembly, comprising:

a rail;

a post; and

a bracket for mounting the rail to the post, the bracket comprising:

a post surface at least a portion of which is configured to abut a mounting surface of the post; and

at least two surfaces configured to be associated with and not parallel to the post surface of the bracket,

wherein a first surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a first configuration,

wherein a second surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to
accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a second
configuration different from the first configuration,
wherein in the first configuration of the rail relative to the post, a
longitudinal axis of the rail is at a first angle relative to the mounting
surface of the post, and in the second configuration of the rail
relative to the post, the longitudinal axis of the rail is at a second
angle relative to the mounting surface of the post different from the
first angle,
wherein in both the first configuration and the second configuration, an
endmost surface of the rail is in physical contact with the mounting
surface of the post.

116. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 105, wherein the first
surface is configured to receive and retain a first surface of another bracket,
wherein the first surface includes at least one protrusion configured to assist the
first surface in receiving and retaining the first surface of another bracket.

117. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 106, wherein the first
surface is configured to receive and retain a first surface of another bracket,
wherein the first surface includes at least one protrusion configured to assist the
first surface in receiving and retaining the first surface of another bracket.

118. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 115, wherein the first
surface is configured to receive and retain a first surface of another bracket,

wherein the first surface includes at least one protrusion configured to assist the first surface in receiving and retaining the first surface of another bracket.

119. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 97, wherein the at least two surfaces are disposed between interior surfaces of the rail.

120. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 106, wherein the at least two surfaces are disposed between interior surfaces of the rail.

121. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 115, wherein the at least two surfaces are disposed between interior surfaces of the rail.

122. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 97, wherein the rail surrounds the at least two surfaces.

123. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 105, wherein the rail surrounds the at least two surfaces.

124 (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 115, wherein the rail surrounds the at least two surfaces.

125. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 97, wherein in both the first configuration and the second configuration, an endmost surface of the rail is in physical contact with the mounting surface of the post.

126. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 105, wherein in both the first configuration and the second configuration, an endmost surface of the rail is in physical contact with the mounting surface of the post.

127. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 106, wherein in both the first configuration and the second configuration, an endmost surface of the rail is in physical contact with the mounting surface of the post.

128-131. (Cancelled)